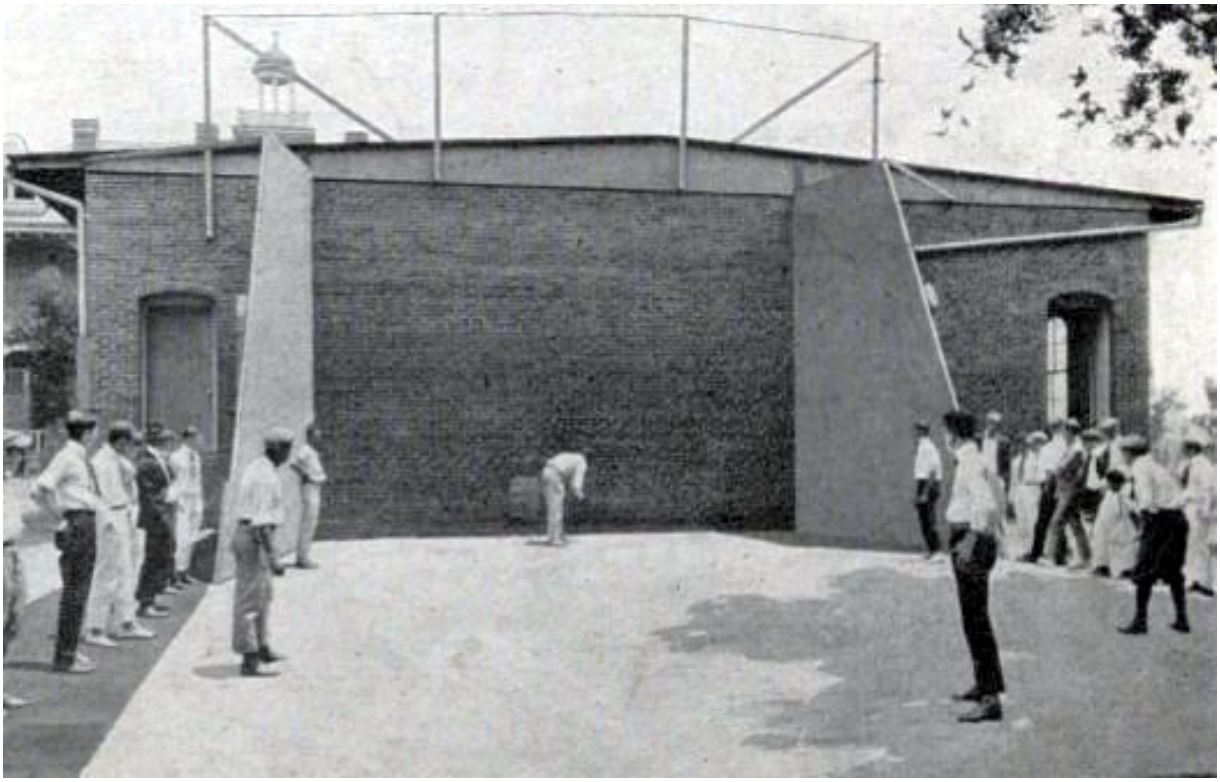
Retro #9: Outdoor Recreational Activities on Campus

But by far, the most popular outdoor recreational activity with the longest staying power at SSC was handball. For more than 100 years, the handball courts on campus were always crowded with players during recreation time until the sport faded away in the 1970s.

Handball Perennially Popular

From the late 1800s into the 1970s, handball was a very popular campus sport, especially during recess periods. The courts pictured on the left, between the tennis courts and the old gym, were constructed in the 1940s by student work crews organized by Br. Peter.



In the past, before the surge of video games, outdoor recreational activities with marbles, spinning tops, slinkies, hula hoops, yo-yos, frisbees, and hackey sacks provided students with lots of fun during recess.

Some activities were only fads that faded away after a couple of years. Others such as skateboards, rollerblades, and handball had more staying power. Skateboards made their debut on the SSC campus in 1975, totally replacing the unicycles so popular the year before. In the 1970s, students liked to set up obstacle courses for skateboarding.

Rollerblade field hockey on the old tennis courts was very popular for a few years in the 1990s.

Brother Xavier Werneth, March 2025